

February 2026

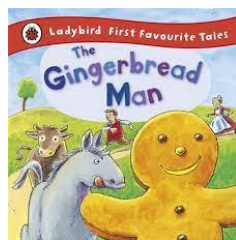
Dear families,

Welcome back! We hope that you have had a lovely half term break. Spring 2 term is a busy term with lots of exciting things happening.

This term our topic is 'Open a door...'. The children will be opening a door to different countries around the world. We will learn about different countries, the culture, food, animals and compare this to the UK.

They will explore questions such as:

- Where is your family from?
- What is the country like?
- What is the weather like?
- What language(s) do you speak?
- What types of food do they eat?
- What types of festivities are held in this country?



This term we will be reading the story [The Gingerbread Man](#). The children will be hot seating different characters and will learn to ask good questions. By learning to ask questions, children can find out information and deepen their understanding of a topic or their interests. The children will be sequencing the story as well and learning to read some of the key vocabulary.

We will be learning to make lists of ingredients we will need and the purpose of a recipe. We will write instructions for our cooking. The children will make pancakes, bread, rolls and bake gingerbread biscuits. We will be trying out different recipes to make our bread and biscuits healthy.

- What can we use instead of sugar?
- What kind of toppings can we use?

The children will also plan and make their own gingerbread man hand puppets. By planning their puppets, the children will be able to create a design and think about the steps they need to take to make their puppets.

Role Play:

In the role play area, we will set up Mulberry Wood Wharf police station! The children will have the opportunity to dress-up and use different props such as radios, police uniform and record sheets when

accessing the role play area. This will enable the children to discuss and explore the lives of people around them and in society, expressing their knowledge of right and wrong.

Phonics

Phonics teaching is a big focus, and we will be supporting your children to become great readers and writers. All children will be taking a Phonics book home. Please listen to your child read and ensure that these books come to school every day.

Words are everywhere – practice reading and writing by helping your children to sound out the letters they know. Get your child to write words and even challenge them to write simple sentences.

In their Phonics folder we have included a high frequency word cards (RED words). These are words that children should know how to read and spell by the end of Reception. These words cannot be sounded out or the children have not learnt the sound in Reception.

When reading with your child each night you can ask questions before, during and after the reading. Understanding what has been read to us and understanding what we read is an equally important skill to becoming a strong fluent reader. These skills help the children think about what they are reading and being able to talk about or answer questions about the story. Here are a few **reading comprehension** questions that can be tried at home:

- Before:
 - What do you think this story will be about? What might happen in the story?
 - Where do you think the story takes place? How do you know? (Encourage your child to look at the illustrations on the book's cover).
- During
 - What is happening in the picture?
 - What has happened so far? Is it what you expected to happen? Why or why not?
 - What might happen next?
 - How do you think the story might end?
 - How do you think the character is feeling here? How would you feel if you were the character in the story?
- After
 - Did you like this book? Why? (Encourage your child to explain their reasoning in a sentence. This will help them develop their own opinions about books).
 - What happened in the story?
 - What was your favourite part? Why?
 - What was the most exciting part of the story? Can you find it?
 - Why did that character do... (give a situation/event from the story)?

Maths

In addition to this cross-curricular learning, we will start exploring numbers in further depth by counting amounts, finding one more and one less and applying our knowledge through problem – solving. We enjoy solving a good problem!

The children will continue to learn the composition of numbers to 10 this half term. As the children learn more about the composition of numbers they will explore doubling, odd and even numbers, and addition.

They will also be recapping shapes (2D and 3D), their properties and repeating patterns. We will also focus on comparing mass, height/length and capacity of objects. Can you compare the length of two or three objects? Can you measure the objects using cheerio's or paper clips? How long is it if you use a ruler?

Here are a few activities that can be done at home to support your child's learning:

- **Ordering numbers (1-10, 1-20):** Create your own number cards using pieces of paper. Support your children with number formation. Mix up the numbers and then ask your children to put them in order. Can you use a timer to see how long it takes to order the numbers? Can you beat your time next time? When your child is confident with ordering numbers, give them only three to five random numbers and ask them to put them into order. Can you place these numbers in order of smallest number to largest number?
- **Patterns:** look for patterns everywhere (songs, stories, fabrics, repeating patterns). Can you create your own patterns? What can you use to make a repeating pattern? Can you clap out a pattern or make an actions pattern (clap, jump, clap, jump...).
- **Shape 2D and 3D:** Collect some objects you can find in your house that are 3D shapes (cereal box, crisp tube, boxes of tea, oranges, DVDs, etc...). Sort them into groups of the same shapes. How many objects have corners? How many round objects do you have? How many have curved edges or sides? Can you sort them by what 2D shapes you can see in the 3D shape?
- **Number Bonds:** Explore number bonds within 5 using objects from your home. Find five objects and two plates or boxes. Place ten objects on one plate and then for a challenge, have a go at finding different number bonds to 10. What number bond did you make? How can we rearrange them to find another way to make five or ten? I can see that there are two on this plate. If I hide the other plate, can you tell me how many are on it?
- **We have added a wealth of practical maths games on our website that you can select and play with your child – they are under the 'home learning' section**

Library Books and Reading

'The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go'
— Dr. Seuss

One of the most important things you can do with your child is to Read, read, read! This week the children have loved hearing a range of stories and singing many nursery rhymes. Please take at least 10 minutes to read with them every night. This is so important for your child – it will help to develop their communication, language and concentration skills, and fosters curiosity and creativity.

The children will be borrowing a book from the library every **Tuesday**. Please make sure your child has their book folder with them. **The children would usually change their books every Tuesday. So please make sure that you return the book to the class by Monday.**

Here are important days of our week:

Tuesday – We will encourage all of the children to borrow a book from our school Library. Please make sure your child has a book bag or a bag with them.

Tuesday – We will be having tennis sessions in In2Sports with our Tennis coach. The children do not need PE kit.

Thursday - The children will be having PE with a sports coach each week. The coach will be developing the children's coordination and gross motor skills.

Friday- Every Friday we will cook or bake something as a class.

Friday – Celebration assembly where we celebrate what has happened in the Early Years. Your child will get a chance to be ‘star of the week’ and get a certificate. They will also get a sticker if they come to school every day. Also, two children from each class will take the Tiger or Blue Whale toys home for the weekend. During our Celebration assembly each class will have the opportunity to win the attendance trophy for their class and keep the trophy for the week.

Home Learning

Home Learning is an effective tool used to support the learning in the classroom and to help children develop into independent learners. In EYFS, children learn through experiences, hands-on learning and play. Home Learning will focus on developing and supporting communication/language skills, understanding of the world, and physical development. Home Learning will be set as projects where the children will be able to learn or create something to share with their classmates. This half term’s home learning will be:

- **Open a Door:** Create a poster/slide show/book about where your family is from. Where is your family from? Explore where your family is from in the world by learning and comparing different music, clothing, food and culture from that country. Bring in or post on Tapestry about your family. This will be added to your class book about Blue Whale and Tiger Class’ families.

Please share your home learning on Tapestry. We look forward to seeing your home learning projects and sharing them with the class.

Spring Show

Every year the Early Years put on a special spring show. This year we will be showcasing the story, ‘The Gingerbread Man.’ Every child will dress up and take part in the show. Please support your child by practising at home especially if they have a talking part as we want our children to show resilience and confidence during the final performance.

The performance will be on Thursday 26th April. We will be performing one show at 9:30am and one show at 2:00pm. Please let Marwah or Jen know which show you would like to attend. We can’t wait for you to see the show!

Learning Journeys – Tapestry

We will continue to add lots of pictures of our fantastic adventures onto Tapestry. As always, your child will have one in-depth observation added to tapestry once every half-term. Please remember to also upload any fun activities from home!

Healthy bodies, healthy minds.

A gentle reminder that healthy children need:

- Plenty of sleep: 10-12 hours every night. This means bedtime at 7pm!
- Fresh fruit and vegetables every day.
- Lots of water to drink.
- Clean, healthy teeth – your child must brush their teeth **every morning** and **every night** before bed to stay healthy.

PLEASE ENSURE YOUR CHILD HAS A WATER BOTTLE WITH THEM EACH DAY so they can drink freely throughout the day.

Important events / diary dates:

- 5th March – Vision and Hearing further check-up for specific children
- 6th March – World book Day – dress as your favourite book character
- 9th March – The Gingerbread Man costume workshop

- 9-13th March – British Science Week
- 11th March - Cosy read day – wear your pyjamas!
- 17th March – St Patrick’s Day
- 19th Or 20th March – School closed for Eid
- 26th March – The Gingerbread Man performances (9:30am and 2:00pm)
- 27th March – Eid party day – non uniform/party clothes

Thank you for your continued support!
Reception Team